

**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 MEETING**

**SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bob Noyes, Harriet Noyes, Stroker Rogovin, Cheryl Miller, Judy Berman, Steve Ricci, Bill Eykamp, Agnes O'Donnell

Facilitator: Brad Barber

Minutes: Agnes O'Donnell

2018 meetings: 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday, Town Hall Annex, first floor
Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4

- **Trails Day.**

The 2019 Trails Day will be Saturday May 11. Brad will contact Arlington Belmont Crew regarding schedule and volunteering.

- **Aquatic Plant Treatment.**

Treatment was completed on Monday, August 13 and Spy Pond was clear by August 18. The treatment was later than anticipated due to a three-week notification requirement. By late July, invasive European Naiad was growing and non-invasive snail-seed pond weed was abundant. Many plants had a covering of filamentous algae. There were small patches of invasive Eurasian Milfoil. Invasive curly-leaved pondweed had died back as expected.

Regarding next year:

- The current plan of Sonar every three years and spot treatment other years does not appear to be working. We have several new invasive plants, an invasive snail, and excessive vegetation. Some of the invasives need treatment at springtime while others need treatment mid-summer. Three three-week notification of abutters is hard to anticipate.
- We think that help is needed. We plan to discuss these issues with the DPW and Conservation Commission.

- **Sandbar in Spy Pond.**

Steve and Brad will attend a preliminary planning session with MassDOT and the Town of Arlington on the sandbar.

Part of the problem may be the design of the outfall. It directs the current toward the sandbar. A plume of fine silt continues along the northern edge of Spy Pond.

- **Water Chestnuts.**

Brad found eleven water chestnut plants this year. Solitude Lake Management found two plants last year. All plants were removed by hand. Every year we need to pull water chestnuts before they go to seed. The Arlington Reservoir, Mystic River, and Charles River have substantial problems with water chestnuts.

- **Town Day.**

We identified volunteers, jobs, and display for our booth with Envision Arlington. We plan to show water chestnuts, the storm drain demo, Secchi disk dunk, and a water bowl for visiting dogs.

- **DCR presentation regarding Basic Aquatic Weeds in Lakes and Ponds.**

Cheryl reported on DCR talk about basic aquatic weeds in lakes and ponds and the need for “weed watchers.” She will request multiple copies of literature from the presentation.

- **Eutrophication trends**

2007 and 2012 National Lakes Assessment final generic environmental impact report noted the significance of phosphorous in early spring contributing to algae and resulting toxins. More about the report will be discussed at the next meeting.

- **Meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.**